

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0705

UNCLAS NIAMEY 1895

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SPECAIL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON SAHEL DROUGHT RECOVERY

REF: STATE 112399

R&R PROJECT SUMMARY

A) HEAVY EQUIPMENT: ACCELERATED RICE PRODUCTION 683-130-II-B

THIS ACTIVITY WAS DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE GON IN DEVELOPING 2200 HA OF IMPROVED RICE LAND WHICH WILL BE SEEDED WITH HIGH YIELD VARIETIES TWICE A YEAR. THIS PROJECT HAS FINANCED THE PURCHASE OF 4 PIECES OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT. THE EQUIPMENT HAS SPEEDED THE CULTIVATION OF THE FIRST 300 HECTARE PORTION OF THE OVER-ALL PROJECT. THE FIRST CROP YIELDED AN ESTIMATED FIVE FOLD INCREASE OVER TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF RICE PRODUCTION THUS PROVIDING FOR GREATER SECURITY FOR TARGET RURAL POPULATION WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE BE SUBJECT TO CAPRICIOUS RAIN-FALL PATTERNS AND UNCERTAIN HARVESTS.

THIS ACTIVITY IS A MULTI-DONOR OPERATION (FAC, FED, IBRD) AND INVOLVES A CONSIDERABLE INPUT ON THE PART OF GON SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS (ENGINEERING PLANS, ELECTRIC PUMP INSTALLATION, ORGANIZATION OF SELF-MANAGING CO-OPERATIVES) AND HAS PROVED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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EFFICIENT INSTRUMENT OF IMPLEMENTING AN ACCELERATED

FOOD PRODUCTION PROGRAM.

B) STORAGE IN DEFICIT AREAS 683-234-III-G

ACTIVITY PROVIDED FOR RAPID CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR 500 TON GRAIN WAREHOUSES LOCATED IN REMOTE, SEMI-NOMADIC REGIONS FROM WHICH GRAIN WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO RURAL POPULATIONS LACKING SUFFICIENT PRODUCTIVE MEANS TO MEET THEIR OWN FOOD NEEDS. IN ADDITION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WAS FURNISHED TO ASSURE THE BUILDING TO SPECIFICATIONS OF TEN ADDITIONAL WAREHOUSES FINANCED BY LIBYA AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WITH STORAGE CAPACITY OF 6 THOUSAND METRIC TONS. CONSTRUCTION WAS COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, IN MID-JUNE 1974, BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON BEGAN.

THE GOOD 1974 HARVEST HAS RESULTED IN AMPLE CEREAL FOOD STOCKS PREPOSITIONED IN THESE WAREHOUSES BY GON FOR PURPOSES OF STABILIZING PRICES AND SUPPLYING RELIEF FOOD TO THOSE REMAINING POCKETS OF POPULATIONS IN NEED, ESTIMATED BY OUR SOURCES AT 50 THOUSAND.

THROUGHT THIS PROJECT A MAJOR PROBLEM, STORAGE AND PRE-POSITIONING OF RELIEF GRAIN, HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY MET THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF THE GON, USG AND OTHER DONOR NATIONS.BUCHE

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